



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **FPPC media director receives lifetime achievement award**

*State Information Officers Council honors career of distinguished public service*

Veteran FPPC Media Director Sigrid Bathen has received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the State Information Officers Council (SIOC). The award, honoring Bathen's long and distinguished career in state government communications and public service, was announced Thursday, May 8, at SIOC's annual awards competition to recognize excellence in state government communication.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is given to state public affairs professionals with more than 10 years experience in the field. The recipient must have "taken his or her work to a superior level, influenced others in state government communications, or led his or her office to a standard of performance that could be a model for others." Only one such award is given annually by SIOC - the statewide organization of information officers and publications professionals in California state government.

"This award is a richly deserved recognition of Sigrid and her many years of dedicated public service to the state of California and its residents," said FPPC Chair Liane Randolph.

Bathen told the SIOC awards ceremony that she was "deeply honored" to receive the award. "I have been fortunate to work for state agencies – and people – I admire and believe in – public officials who support openness in government and strive to help reporters and editors do their jobs."

Prior to joining the FPPC as media director in 1999, Bathen was senior editor at the *California Journal*, an award-winning magazine covering politics and government, where she specialized in medical and legal issues and education. In other state service, she was Press Secretary to California Superintendent of Public Instruction Wilson Riles from 1981-83 and to Attorney General John K. Van de Kamp from 1983-87. She is a longtime Sacramento journalist who was a staff writer for the *Sacramento Bee* for 13 years and has written for numerous publications. She has been an Adjunct Professor of Journalism at California State University, Sacramento, since 1988, and has also taught journalism at California State University, Chico, and in the Los Rios Community College District.

Bathen received her Bachelor's degree in journalism cum laude from California State University, Chico, and her Master's degree in English and journalism from CSU, Sacramento. Her Master's thesis, on women political reporters, has been excerpted in several magazines.

Last year, the FPPC's Public Education Unit received Gold Awards from SIOC for the *FPPC*

*2000 Annual Report and Resource Directory and the Reporter's Guide to the FPFC.*

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